

First Year Seminar in Critical Thinking – Spring 2016

3373-FYS 100-236 (2:00 pm-3:15pm – TTH Smith Hall 263)

Instructor: Dr. Barbara J. Tarter (tarterb@marshall.edu)
Classroom: Smith Hall 261
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Office Hours:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
12:00-1:00	Faculty Senate Executive Committee (1/11, 2/15, 3/7, 4/4, 4/25)		Office Hours 12:00-1:00 (May have faculty meeting or Huntington City Mission Meeting)	
1:00-2:00	Office Hours 1:00-2:00	Office Hours 1:00-2:00	Office Hours 1:00-2:00	
2:00-3:15	Persuasion 2:00-3:15 (Smith 261)	First Year Seminar 2:00-3:15 (Smith 263)	Persuasion 2:00-3:15 (Smith 261)	First Year Seminar 2:00-3:15 (Smith 263)
3:15-4:00	Office Hours	Office Hours 3:15-4:15	Office Hours 3:15-4:15	Office Hours 3:15-5:15 Except for Faculty Senate Days (1/21, 2/18, 3/31, 4/14, 5/5;)
4:00-6:30	Nonverbal Communication CMM Smith (261)			
6:00-6:30	Office Hours 6:30-8:15			
6:30-7:00				
7:00-8:00				
8:00-9:00		Tri-State Literacy Volunteer Tutor (Cabell County Library)		

Textbook: No textbook is required for this course. Reading assignments will be placed on **Blackboard** or distributed in class. You are responsible for reading **all** materials placed on Blackboard. Please note: You **WILL NOT** do well in this class unless you read the material provided on Blackboard; a Google Search for material will not suffice.

Seminar: specialized educational class in which ideas, approaches, and advances are regularly shared among participants (Encarta® World English Dictionary [North American Edition] ©2009)

Reference Librarian: Mr. Timothy A. Balch
 e-mail: balch@marshall.edu / phone: 304-696-2335 / Office - Drinko Library 134

Computer Requirements: Students must be able to effectively use the library's on-line research sites and be able to effectively load one of their documents into the GEAR Assessment program. All assignments must be typed.

(Who Done It?) This Seminar will take a legal focus. Specifically, the class will analyze the legal system as it relates to the five FYS domains, the class objectives and the class assignments.

FYS Domains	Student Learning Outcomes	Practice of Desired Student Outcomes	Student Outcome Assessment
Information Literacy	Explore and revise search strategies to locate appropriate research; integrate relevant information from reliable sources; question and evaluate the complexity of the information environment; and use information in an ethical manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Access a variety of databases such as EbcHost’s Academic Search Premier, Lexis Nexis, Credo Literati, the CQ Researcher and more. – Locate and Evaluate research related to a modified Legal Brief, and integrate it into a case presentation. – Integrate research from a variety of sources, to include legal documents, newspaper stories, journal articles, books and reliable websites. – Evaluate and Revise material based on expectations of the opposition’s position. – Discuss such cases and the corresponding documents as the Scottsboro Boys, Chandra Levi Case, the Salem Witch Trials, and the Leo Frank Case. – Prepare and Present legal cases with attention to details and from an ethical approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Preparation of two legal briefs (One for the defense and one for the prosecution) – Presentation of the material derived from the research as related to each case. – Two Exams – Final Critical Thinking Challenge
Integrative Thinking about the Domains: Aesthetic/Artistic Thinking Information Literacy Mathematical Thinking Multicultural & International Thinking Oral, Written, Visual Communication Scientific Thinking Social, Ethical & Historical Thinking	<p>Make connections among varied disciplines, domains of thinking, experiences, and situations.</p> <p>Transfer skills and learning among varied disciplines, domains of thinking, experiences, and situations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Connect a variety of disciplines through discussions such as Art and Criminals; Social Sciences and Sharia Law; Crime and Statistics; CSI and Science; and the historical and social aspects of specific criminal acts. – Prepare two legal cases that transfer the research completed into a comprehensive oral, visual, and written presentation. – Review On-Line Documents involving crime and criminal practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Preparation of Modified Legal Brief – Development of two legal presentations – Two Exams – Final Critical Thinking Challenge
Intercultural Thinking	Evaluate generalizations about cultural groups, analyze how cultural beliefs might affect communication across cultures, evaluate how specific approaches to global issues will affect multiple cultural communities, and untangle competing economic, religious, social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Examine personal cultural beliefs on issues such as ethnicity, religion, gender, age, and the media through in-class discussions, a speaker, a field trip to the Crime Scene House, video clips, classroom presentations, and two film documentaries. – Scrutinize such cultural issues as Sharia Law, Witchcraft, and mental illness. – Analyze the effect of cultural and historical beliefs on such things as 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Two Exams – Final Critical Thinking Challenge – Jury Decisions and Discussions involving case presentations – Multi-Cultural Exercise involving taking a position in another country

	or geographical interests of cultural groups in conflict.	<p>religion, ethnicity, and socio-economic standing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review and Evaluate On-Line documents involving cultural differences in the law – Explore and Evaluate cases that have significantly contributed to current cultural beliefs such as the Scottsboro Boys and the Salem Witch Trials. 	
Inquiry Based Thinking	Formulate focused questions and hypotheses, evaluate existing knowledge, collect and analyze data, and draw justifiable conclusions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Formulate a position in two controversial legal cases – Evaluate existing material supporting your assigned position and the alternative position – Analyze data, and draw a justifiable conclusion for your assigned legal position. – Anticipate those arguments that might be presented by the opposing side and present counter arguments in support of a position – Review and determine those witnesses that might be the most powerful in presenting a case and suggest what their testimony might include. – Engage in problem-solving activities that require reasoning through multiple levels of inquiry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Two Exams – Final Critical Thinking Challenge – Preparation of Modified Legal Brief – Development of two legal presentations –
Metacognitive Thinking	Evaluate the effectiveness of a strategy to determine the degree of improvement in your knowledge and skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Engage in reading and writing assignments that require a consideration of different learning strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review comments on the legal briefs made by the instructor. – Review of comments about the legal presentation made by the instructor. – Consider the class determination of the effectiveness of the legal presentation.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

DUE DATES: Assignments are due at midnight on the date indicated on the syllabus. Please submit assignments directly to Blackboard. If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, please notify the instructor and she will walk you through it. Make sure to include your name on the actual assignment and that of your partner if the assignment is submitted as a joint effort.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION: It is a good college practice to always keep copies of your work, both before and after grading, as assignments often get lost in cyberspace. 😊😊 Always include your name on the actual assignment before submitting it to Blackboard.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: The semester will move very fast and it is difficult to stay on track unless you follow the syllabus closely. Assignments not received by the due date will be subject to a reduced grading scale. Assignments will not be accepted late without special permission from the instructor prior to the due date.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is **required** for the course according to University Policy. The policy states that a student that has more than three **(3) Unexcused absences** during the semester (1 ½ week of class) will expect the following consequences:

- Automatic one letter grade deduction
- Mandatory meeting with the instructor. If the student wishes the chance to redeem him/herself, he or she may submit a plan of improvement. If the plan of improvement is accepted by the instructor and implemented by the student, the student can potentially earn back the letter grade. Subsequent missed classes will result in additional letter grade deductions.

Excused absences fall into five categories:

1. University-sponsored activities: academic activities (e.g., performing arts, debate, honors classes, ROTC, and departmental functions); official athletic events sponsored by the Athletic Department; and university activities (e.g., student government and student organizations)
2. Student Illness or Critical Illness/Death in the Immediate Family

"Immediate Family" is defined as a spouse/life partner, child, parent, legal guardian, sibling, grandparent or grandchild. ***Routine appointments are not excused. Appointments should be scheduled around your classes.**
3. Short-Term Military Obligation
4. Jury Duty or Subpoena for Court Appearance
5. Religious Holidays

The student with excused absences has the following responsibility:

- Provide appropriate documentation to the Dean of Student Affairs for an excused absence. Learn how the process works here: http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug_10-11_published.pdf
- Request an opportunity to complete missed work within one week of the absence
- Be aware that excessive absences—whether excused or unexcused—may affect your ability to earn a passing grade.
- Regardless of the nature of the excused absence, you are responsible for completing all coursework prior to the end of the semester.

STUDENTS with DISABILITIES: Marshall University is committed to an equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with physical, learning and psychological disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with disabilities to contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS) in Prichard Hall 117, phone 304 696-2271 to provide documentation of their disability. For more information, please visit <http://www.marshall.edu/disabled> or contact Disabled Student Services Office at Prichard Hall 11, phone 304-696-2271.

CLASSROOM RESPECT

Late Arrivals: Given the nature of the class, it is important that you arrive to class on time. Late arrivals can significantly distract the class and the instructor. If you must arrive late during a performance day, please wait until the speaker sits down before entering the classroom.

Cell Phones: Please make sure that all cell phones are turned off before class starts. If you have an emergency call that you are expecting, please let the instructor know prior to the start of class.

Text Messaging: Please refrain from texting during class time. This is extremely distracting and disrespectful to the instructor and to other speakers, who expect your attention. Continual abuse of this policy may result in academic grade loss or even dismissal from the course.

Laptops: Feel free to bring a laptop to take notes during class BUT other uses of the computer such as e-mailing friends, gaming, or surfing the WEB for unrelated class material, may result in class dismissal.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Plagiarism: Copying another's work without proper citation of the source constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. A student that is found plagiarizing another's work will automatically receive an "F" in the course and may be subject to further university discipline.

Cheating: According to university policy, cheating is defined as the use of any unauthorized materials during an academic exercise to include notes, study aids etc. Cheating also includes the viewing of another person's work or securing any part of an assignment or examination in advance of distribution by the instructor. Cheating will not be tolerated in this class and will result in an automatic "F" for the class and the possible recommendation of suspension or expulsion from the university.

OTHER UNIVERSITY POLICIES

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy at http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802

Students with Disabilities | Affirmative Action | Computing Services Acceptable Use | Dead Week| Excused Absences (undergraduate) | Academic Dishonesty | Inclement Weather | MU Alert |Academic Dismissal| Academic Forgiveness | Academic Probation and Suspension| Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students| Sexual Harassment

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

University Required - Reading/Writing minimums and maximums

- Total reading for the semester should be **480-720** pages
- Total writing for the semester should be **16-24 pages**.

Exam 1 & 2: The exams will consist of twenty essay questions given in advance. The questions will largely involve critical thinking and applying theory to “real life” situations. On the day of the exam, twelve questions will be randomly drawn and ten of the twelve questions drawn will be answered by each student. No surprises! 😊😊 **@ 20% = 40% of the final grade**

Prosecution & Defense Briefs: Each brief should be **ten (10) to twelve (12) pages long** (double-spaced) and include a synopsis of the case, a list of potential witnesses, a list of the major arguments that support the specific position with required documentation, a list of expected counter arguments and the anticipated response, a discussion of any additional relevant material, photos of the exhibits with documentation, a conclusion and a complete bibliography of properly cited sources. Each brief should contain no less than twelve **(12) reliable** sources. All briefs must properly cite sources throughout the document in either APA or MLA style formats. Keep in mind that the synopsis of the case is **not** the same as the oral opening statement, nor is the oral closing statement the same as the conclusion. Although some of the same information should be included, the introduction and conclusion **should not** be read as a substitute for the presentation.

Please note that **all** Legal Briefs are due at midnight of the first day of presentations, regardless of when the actual student presentation occurs. This keeps the assignment fair for everyone.

Samples of past student briefs will be shared on Blackboard. The final brief grade will be shared by the partners; provided a significant contribution was made by both. Students failing to contribute a significant portion to the brief will receive a “0” on this assignment. Students will be asked to indicate the percent of partner contribution.

Students not assigned a partner that must complete a legal brief on their own will receive a half of a letter grade (5 points) added to their brief grade.

2 @ 15% = 30% of the final grade

Presentation of the Case: Students will orally present both their prosecution and defense cases. The presentation should provide visual aids where appropriate. The remainder of the class will serve as the jury, in determining the winner of each case; these decisions will not affect the student’s grade. The presentation grades will be assigned individually to each partner. It is important that both partners work together to provide a consistent and comprehensive presentation of their case. Each presentation will be between **5-8 minutes** long.

Students without partners will receive their highest of their two presentation grades, for the case in which they argue both positions. **2 @ 10% = 20% of the final grade**

Final – Critical Thinking Challenge: Students will analyze a critical thinking scenario and use the documents provided to complete their response to the scenario. Additional information will be provided throughout the class. The scenario will be similar to the one completed during WOW weekend. A rubric for the final is attached. **10% of the final grade**

Classroom Courtroom Presentation:

Prosecution – Partner 1 - Opening Statement (5-8 minutes)

Introduce the case with a general overview of the facts. Explain the facts as they relate to the prosecution’s perspective. Respond to strongly anticipated defense arguments. State the prosecution’s major arguments with appropriate support.

Defense – Partner 1 – Opening Statement (5-8 minutes)

Reintroduce the case with a general overview of the facts. Clearly state the defense’s perspective on the specified facts. Respond to the Prosecution’s major arguments. State the defense’s major arguments with appropriate support.

Prosecution – Partner 2- Closing Statement (5-8 minutes)

Reiterate the facts of the case based on the prosecution’s perspective. Respond to the major arguments made by the Defense. Reiterate the primary arguments of the Prosecution. Provide a closing statement which details the facts and evidence based on the Prosecution’s perspective.

Defense – Partner 2 Closing Statement (5-8 minutes)

Reiterate the facts of the case based on the defense’s perspective. Respond to the major arguments made by the Prosecution. Reiterate the primary arguments of the Defense. Provide a closing statement which details the facts and evidence based on the Defense’s perspective.

This is the only physical or hard-copy of this syllabus you will receive. Electronic versions of this syllabus can be accessed on MU Online (Blackboard) and at MyMU under the appropriate course listing.


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignment	Percentage of Grade	Grade	Current %	Due Date
Exam I	.20			February 18, 2016
Legal Brief – 1st Case	.15			February 23, 2016
Courtroom Presentation – 1st Case	.10			February 23, 2016- March 1, 2016
Exam II	.20			April 14, 2016
Legal Brief – 2nd Case	.15			April 19, 2016
Load best brief into GEAR	----	----	----	April 19, 2016

Courtroom Presentation – 2nd Case	.10			April 19, 2016- April 26, 2016
Final – Critical Thinking Challenge	.10			May 5, 2016
TOTAL Class	100%			

Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Discussion	Assignment—Please read the assignment before the class.
January 12, 2016	Introduction to the Class Discussion of the long-term class goals Review the Syllabus LEGAL JEOPARDY	
January 14, 2016	The Value of a College Education Show Me the Money Show Me the Grade	Readings on Blackboard
January 19, 2016	Developing a Legal Brief	 Who Killed Chandra Levy? Come to class, having read the Chandra Levy material on Blackboard.
January 21, 2016	Assignment to Case #1 "Murder in Many Forms" Discussion of the Crimes	Partners meet during the last part of class.
January 26, 2016	Finding Relevant Sources – Key Web sites	Embedded Librarian (Mr. Tim Balch)
January 28, 2016	Making an Argument Leo Frank Case Presenting the Case – The Power of Language "Opening and Closing Statements"	Readings on Blackboard
February 2, 2016	Citing Sources in APA and MLA styles	Embedded Librarian (Mr. Tim Balch) Print out or have available through an electronic device, Purdue Owl Citation Comparison Guide found on Blackboard and at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/949/01/
February 4, 2016	The CSI Effect	Readings on Blackboard

February 9, 2016	CSI: Crime Scene House	 Meet at the Crime Scene House 1524 5th Ave It is the second house on the corner of Hal Greer and 5th Ave.
February 11, 2016	CSI and Math Statistics and Crime	Readings on Blackboard
February 16, 2016	Presenting Your Cases	Readings on Blackboard
February 18, 2016	EXAM I – 20 questions given in advance; 12 chosen on the day of the exam – critical thinking essays	EXAM I
February 23, 2016	Class as a Courtroom – Both Sides Present Their Case.	<i>All Prosecution and Defense Final Briefs Due – (MLA Style Format)</i> 1st Case Assignment Case 1 & 2 Classroom Presentation
February 25, 2016	Class as a Courtroom – Both Sides Present Their Case.	Case 3 & 4 Classroom Presentation
March 1, 2016	Class as a Courtroom – Both Sides Present Their Case. Case # 2 Assigned. Partners meet briefly to discuss the case.	Case 5 & 6 Classroom Presentation Check some of the case information on Blackboard
March 3, 2016	Cultural Law What is Sharia Law	Readings on Blackboard
March 8, 2016	Sharia Law	Guest Speaker - Majed Khader, Ph.D. Professor Sharia Law – Go to Blackboard for Article
March 10, 2016	Art & Criminals – Jack the Ripper & Hitler	Readings on Blackboard
March 15, 2016	Art and the Manson Murders	Readings on Blackboard
March 17, 2016	Manson Continued	Readings on Blackboard
March 22, 2016 - March 24, 2016 (Spring Break)		
March 29, 2016	Meet with Partners on Final Case	
March 31, 2016	The Scottsboro Boys – A historical/cultural phenomena	Readings on Blackboard
April 5, 2016	The Scottsboro Boys Continued	Readings on Blackboard
April 7, 2016	Religion, Money & Superstition	Readings on Blackboard

	The Salem Witch Trials	
April 12, 2016	Salem Witch Trials Continued	Readings on Blackboard
April 14, 2016	EXAM II – 20 questions given in advance; 12 chosen on the day of the exam – critical thinking essays	EXAM II
April 19, 2016	Class as a Courtroom – Both Sides Present their Case	<i>All Prosecution and Defense Final Briefs Due – (APA Style Format)</i> 2nd Case Assignment Case 1 & 2 Classroom Presentation Please load your best legal brief into GEAR at this time. Go to http://www.marshall.edu/gear/
April 21, 2016	Class as a Courtroom – Both Sides Present their Case	Case 3 & 4 Classroom Presentation
April 26, 2016	Class as a Courtroom – Both Sides Present their Case Final Class Day – Catch Up	Case 5 & 6 Classroom Presentation
April 28, 2016		Review Final Format
Final – Critical Thinking Challenge	May 5, 2016 (Thursday) 12:45-2:45	

Class Schedule is subject to change, based on the needs of the class and the instructor.

Rubric for Critical Thinking Challenge (Final Exam)

FYS Outcomes	(A: 4)	(B: 3)	(C: 2)	(D/F: 1)	Weight
Information Literacy (Accessing, evaluating, and using information ethically)	Part A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively/rightly explains evaluation of documents in the Document Library (DL) by determining accuracy, bias, and relevance. Integrates relevant information from the DL. Acknowledges sources used in the final memo and explains how information in the document impacts the analysis. 	Part A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explains evaluation of documents in the DL but overlooks crucial details concerning accuracy, bias, or relevance. Acknowledges relevant sources of information from the DL in the final memo, but does not explain how information in the documents impacts the analysis. 	Part A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes documents in the DL in general terms; does not effectively determine accuracy, bias, and relevance. Indirectly/vaguely acknowledges sources of information from the DL in the final memo. 	Part A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fails to correctly determine accuracy, bias, and relevance of the majority of documents in the DL. Fails to acknowledge sources from the DL in the final memo. 	42 Total Points
Critical Thinking/Problem Solving (aka “Inquiry-Based Thinking”) (Demonstrating sound reasoning skills through the construction of an argument)	Part B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers specific recommendations that consider all aspects of the problem. Explicitly links analysis to relevant evidence from the DL; thoroughly questions and evaluates viewpoints and assumptions expressed in the DL; explains why some evidence has been disregarded because of inaccuracy, partiality/bias, or irrelevance. 	Part B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers specific recommendations, but may only partially consider the problem. Links analysis to relevant evidence from the DL but does not explain why particular information was emphasized. 	Part B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers an overgeneralized or contradictory analysis. Defends analysis with a mix of appropriate and inappropriate evidence from the DL. 	Part B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discusses the scenario topic but fails to define the problem. Disregards evidence from the DL in favor of own ideas or biases. 	35 Total Points
Information Literacy (Accessing, evaluating, and using information ethically)	Part C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completely assesses the need for more information. 	Part C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly assesses the need for more information. 	Part C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledges the need for more information but does not specify the information or sources that would address unanswered questions. 	Part C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not acknowledge or assess the need for more information. 	23 Total Points